

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/725,164

Examiner

Dharti H. Patel

Applicant(s)

TEGGATZ ET AL.

Art Unit

2836

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to an amendment filed on 07/26/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-15 and 17-36.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for indicating allowance of claim 1: The prior art teaches a method for controlling a clamping voltage across a terminal of a transistor comprising providing a first clamping voltage in a conductive loop that includes the terminal of the transistor for a first specified period of time; reducing the first clamping voltage to an intermediate clamping voltage; holding the intermediate clamping voltage for a specified period of time; but does not disclose repeating the reducing and the holding until the intermediate clamping voltage is essentially equal to a final clamping voltage, wherein intervals between clamping voltage levels are equal. This feature in combination with the rest of the claim limitations is not anticipated or rendered obvious by the prior art of record.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for indicating allowance of claim 8: The prior art does not disclose a method for rapidly removing a current from an inductive load without current undershoot comprising setting a variable current source to produce a first current; holding the variable current source output for a first period of time; checking if a terminating condition is met; setting the variable current source to produce a second current for a second period of time, wherein the second current is smaller than the first current, if the terminating condition is not met; and repeating the checking and the setting. This feature in combination with the rest of the claim limitations is not anticipated or rendered obvious by the prior art of record.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for indicating allowance of claim 14: The prior art teaches a circuit comprising a driver circuit coupled to an inductive load, the driver circuit containing circuitry to control a current built up across the inductive load; and a voltage varying circuit coupled to the driver circuit, the voltage varying circuit containing circuitry to produce a sequence of voltages, but does not disclose that the voltage varying circuit comprises a variable current source to produce an output current of variable magnitude depending upon an input signal; and a snub resistor coupled in parallel to the variable current source. This feature in combination with the rest of the claim limitations is not anticipated or rendered obvious by the prior art of record.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dharti H. Patel whose telephone number is 571-272-8659. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am - 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Sircus can be reached on 571-272-2800, Ext. 36. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public

PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

DHP
08/14/2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Stephen W. Jackson". Below the signature, the date "8-14-06" is handwritten.

STEPHEN W. JACKSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER